



ENGINEERS  
AUSTRALIA

### **Mr Jon Michael Breen MIEAust**

Jon joined Sydney's Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board initially as a trainee Survey Draftsman. While studying Civil Engineering, mainly part time at UNSW, Jon became an EA student member.

As a trainee Jon worked in the Survey, Design, and Construction Branches of Sydney Water on the Warragamba Pipeline No2, the Prospect to Thornleigh Rising Main, the Bondi Sewage Treatment Plant, the investigation of the Shoalhaven Scheme and later as a professional engineer on the Northern, Western and Southern Regions of Sydney. With increased emphasis on the environment, extra resources were expended by Sydney Water in the built environment, particularly in co-operation with the National Trust of Australia (NSW). As an engineer, in 1994 Jon was able to assume the position of Archivist for Sydney Water, which gave him access to all historical records. On retirement in 2003 Jon received a Certificate of Merit from the Heritage Council of NSW.

Jon has contributed significantly to the recognition of Australia's engineering heritage through EA's heritage recognition program. He was responsible for the research and recording the engineering significance of Sydney's Prospect Reservoir and Cataract Dam, components of the Upper Nepean Scheme, playing a major role in the shaping of Sydney. Both have been awarded Engineering Heritage Markers.

Inspired by a lecture from Professor Don Fraser in 1992, Jon joined the Sydney Engineering Heritage Committee, ~~carrying on a passion~~ that commenced as a Canterbury High School boy and continued at University. In 2006 he was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Minister for Planning "In recognition of an outstanding contribution to heritage conservation in NSW."

Jon remains the Official Historian for Sydney Water, actively involved in increasing its historical knowledge. He conducts tours of Sydney Water's facilities, including the highly prized "Tank Stream" inspections, while also providing water lectures state-wide. He is a member of the Royal Australian Historical Society, President of his local Toastmasters Club, the National Trust (NSW) and is Sydney Heritage Committee's representative on the National Trust Industrial Heritage Committee and the Trust's representative on Sydney Water's Heritage Committee, while remaining a valued member of the Sydney Division's Engineering Heritage Committee.

